

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 032698
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY OSD:HDUNLOP/EUR/RPM:EREHFELD:MEM
APPROVED BY EUR:JGLOWENSTEIN
OSD:SECRETARY BROWN
PM/ISP:LBROWN (SUBSTANCE)
S/S: MR. SEBASTIAN

-----121946Z 024606 /47

O P 121911Z FEB 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 032698

EXDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: NATO, OCON, MIL, AWACS, FR

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE FRENCH PARTICIPATION IN NATO AEW

1. FOR PARIS. MR. LOUIS TOMASETTI OF THE GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY MET WITH DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (ISA) GLITMAN FEBRUARY 9. TOMASETTI SAID THAT PRESIDENT GISCARD HAS AGREED TO OFFER NATO ARRANGEMENT UNDER WHICH IF NATO ACCEPTS THE GE-SNECMA CFM-56 ENGINE FOR THE NATO E-3A PROGRAM, FRANCE WOULD PARTICIPATE IN THE NATO AEW PROGRAM. SPECIFICALLY, TOMASETTI REPORTED, FRANCE WOULD CONTRIBUTE TOWARD ACQUISITION (APPROXIMATELY 250 MILLION DOLLARS), AS WELL AS TOWARD O AND S COSTS. FRANCE WOULD IN ADDITION ABSORB THE INCREASE IN COST BETWEEN USE OF THE CFM-56 ENGINE AND THE PRESENTLY PLANNED PRATT-WHITNEY TF-33 ENGINE. THIS COST DIFFERENCE TOMASETTI ESTIMATED AT
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BETWEEN 150-180 MILLION DOLLARS.

2. BEFORE FRANCE WOULD ANNOUNCE HER OFFER TO NATO, TOMASETTI ADDED, SHE SEEKS US AGREEMENT TO SUPPORT IN NATO ADOPTION OF THE CFM-56 ENGINE. ON RECEIVING SUCH ASSURANCE, PRESUMABLY, FRANCE WOULD OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCE HER OFFER TO PARTICIPATE IN NATO AEW. TOMASETTI'S PURPOSE

IN MEETING MR. GLITMAN WAS TO POSE THE QUESTION CONCERNING
POSSIBLE SUPPORT AT A POLICY LEVEL IN DOD. MR. GLITMAN

REPLIED TO TOMASETTI THAT, ASSUMING FOR THE MOMENT A
FAVORABLE DOD JUDGMENT ON THE TECHNICAL MERITS OF THE
CFM-56 ENGINE THE US WOULD WANT DIRECT, AUTHORITATIVE
CONFIRMATION FROM THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT. THIS COULD BE
INFORMAL (IF THE FRENCH FOR DOMESTIC POLITICAL REASONS
ARE SENSITIVE ABOUT APPEARING TOO ANXIOUS TO JOIN THE
NATO PROJECT) PROVIDED IT IS AT THE GOVERNMENT LEVEL.
MR. TOMASETTI REPLIED THAT HE FELT THAT THE FRENCH
GOVERNMENT WOULD PROVIDE SUCH CONFIRMATION.

3. INFORMATION CONCERNING THE NEW FRENCH POSITION CAME
TO TOMASETTI FROM MONSIEUR RENE RAVAUD, PRESIDENT AND
DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF SNECMA, WHO CLAIMED TO HAVE SUPPORT
FOR THE PROPOSAL DIRECTLY FROM PRESIDENT GISCARD. BEFORE
TAKING ANY FURTHER STEPS WE WISH TO CONFIRM THE FRENCH
POSITION AND PROPOSED SCENARIO AS DESCRIBED BY MR.
TOMASETTI, AND REQUEST EMBASSY TO DO SO. WHEN ELICITING
INFORMATION FROM THE FRENCH, YOU SHOULD NOT GIVE
IMPRESSION THAT WE ARE INITIATING NEGOTIATIONS.

4. IN ADDITION TO DETERMINING THE BASIC VALIDITY OF THE
REPORTED FRENCH POSITION, WE ALSO WISH TO DETERMINE HOW
THE FRENCH FORESEE THEIR EVENTUAL PARTICIPATION.
TOMASETTI INDICATED THAT DUE TO GISCARD'S QTE DELICATE
UNQTE POLITICAL POSITION, FRANCE COULD PAY PROCUREMENT
COSTS, BUT WOULD NOT BE A QTE PROCUREMENT PARTNER. UNQTE.
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IF QUESTIONS CAN BE POSED INFORMALLY, WE WOULD ALSO
LIKE TO KNOW WHETHER THE FRENCH INTEND TO CO-MAN THE
AIRCRAFT. WOULD THEY ACCEPT ORBITS COMPATIBLE WITH
ALLIANCE MILITARY NEEDS? WHAT SPECIAL CONDITIONS ARE
FRENCH LIKELY TO SEEK?

5. BECAUSE OF THE PRESSURE OF TIME, WE REQUEST YOU
RESPOND AT EARLIEST PRACTICABLE TIME, BEFORE COB
FEBRUARY 15, IF AT ALL POSSIBLE.

6. FOR US NATO. YOU SHOULD TAKE NO ACTION AT THIS
TIME. IF OFFER PROVES VALID, WE INTEND TO CONSULT WITH
OTHER ALLIES FULLY BEFORE WE DECIDE TO TAKE ANY FURTHER
STEPS. YOUR VIEWS ON POTENTIAL IMPACT OF FRENCH
PARTICIPATION AS DESCRIBED ABOVE WOULD OF COURSE BE
WELCOME.

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PAGE 01 STATE 032698
ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

66011
DRAFTED BY EUR/RPM:PCOLLINS
APPROVED BY EUR:AHUGHES
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-----150341Z 042434 /64

P 150315Z FEB 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 032698

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 032698 ACTION PARIS
INFO BRUSSELS 12 FEB 77

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 032698

EXDIS

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VANCE UNQUOTE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AWACS, MEMBERSHIP, WARNING SYSTEMS, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
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Film Number: D770051-0430
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From: STATE
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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SAS ID: 3334478
Secure: OPEN
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TAGS: OCON, MILI, FR, NATO
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